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For: Astrocade, Inc.
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FOR RELEASE JUNE 6, 1982

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CREATIVE CRAYON

Now you can create exciting computerized special effects similar to those created by Hollywood filmmakers, right on your own home video game.

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The new CREATIVE CRAYON video game cartridge from Astrocade is an advanced tool for creating impressive original works of art, yet simple enough for a pre-schooler to use.

CREATIVE CRAYON lets you draw on your color TV, using a hand controller and selecting from a palette of 256 colors (four at a time). You can select a "brush" size, automatically draw a straight line between two points, and automatically fill in an area. The game will create circles, boxes, or solid boxes anywhere on the screen. You can take a "snapshot" of any section of your art and "rubber stamp" it anywhere on the screen. The game allows you to overlay and merge images in a variety of ways and to create "mirror image" views.

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CREATIVE CRAYON/2

An unusual feature of CREATIVE CRAYON is the "life" program, which combines with your art work to create constantly changing patterns simulating evolving life forms, kaleidoscopes, and other fascinating effects. The life program grew out of research in "artificial intelligence," and can lead a child into exploring biological forms, computer science, and a variety of other subjects.

You can label and save your artistic creations on an ordinary cassette tape and play them back later to combine multiple images on the same picture. CREATIVE CRAYON is the ideal tool for introducing a child to art and for creative family entertainment. You can also use it as a titler and illustrator for your home video productions (you can dub in music created with the Astrocade MUSIC MAKER cartridge). Two sets of lettering fonts (upper and lower case) are included. You can select letters with your hand controller (no keyboard is required), making the game a fun way for kids to learn about letters and words.

An optional "light pen" makes CREATIVE CRAYON even more fun. You "draw" cartoons and other images seemingly like magic directly on your TV set with an electronic pen, similar to how Hollywood artists create the latest computer-animated films. Creative Crayon will be available this Fall, priced at \$59.95, or \$79.95 with light pen.

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NOTE: color transparencies available upon request.



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CREATIVE CRAYON: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

CREATIVE CRAYON is an 8K ROM cartridge with a unique 1K RAM built in to allow for buffering of images in copy and brush modes and for operation of stacks and fill algorithms.

CREATIVE CRAYON takes full advantage of Astrocade's powerful custom chip set and 4K screen RAM, allowing for creation of complex images, a choice of 256 colors (four at a time), and 19 modes of operation: draw, line (rubber band), fill, circle, box, solid box, life, snap (specify an image area to be rubber stamped), copy (rubber stamp), brush (line thickness), stat (see modes set), text (two sets of upper and lower case letters), clear, and five modes that mirror images and allow for combining or overlaying images. There is also a "special" mode that allows for downloading special functions from audio cassette tapes into the 1K RAM. Menu selection of modes is accomplished by rotating the hand controller potentiometer

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CREATIVE CRAYON TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION/2

and pulling the trigger to select the desired modes. The hand controller potentiometer is also used to select any of 64 characters, with two fonts provided.

Screen images can be stored on an audio tape recorder at 2000 baud, utilizing a mini-jack built into the cartridge. For greater reliability, the optional light pen uses a fiber optic cable rather than the usual photocell.

CREATIVE CRAYON was written in ForthWrite, a superset of the Forth language. ForthWrite was developed by CREATIVE CRAYON designer Tom Rust.

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